



STATE OF WASHINGTON

## STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL

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December 10, 2010

**To:** Builders, Landlords, Local Building and Fire Officials and Other Interested Parties

**From:** Tim Nogler, Managing Director  
State Building Code Council

**Subject:** New Carbon Monoxide Alarm Requirements in Residential Occupancies  
**UPDATED INFORMATION RE: EMERGENCY RULEMAKING**

On November 19, 2010, the State Building Code Council adopted certain changes to the rules regarding carbon monoxide alarms in residential settings. These emergency rules were filed with the Code Reviser as WSR-11-01-067 on December 9, 2010 and will be effective on January 1, 2011. They will amend the current requirements for installation of the alarms, as adopted in November 2009: WAC 51-50 (State Building Code), WAC 51-51 (State Residential Code), and WAC 51-54 (State Fire Code). Requirements for installation of carbon monoxide alarms have been modified to limit their installation as follows:

- By January 1, 2011 carbon monoxide alarms must be installed in all new residential construction in R-1, R-2 and R-3 occupancies where an attached garage or fuel-fired heat source is present.
- By January 1, 2013 carbon monoxide alarms must be installed in existing dwelling and sleeping units in hotels, motels, apartments and single family residential units where an attached garage or fuel-fired heat source is present.
- Owner-occupied single family residences legally occupied before July 1, 2010 are exempt from these requirements.

The alarms must meet the following requirements:

- Alarms must be located outside of each separate sleeping area, in the immediate vicinity of the bedroom.
- Single station carbon monoxide alarms must be listed as complying with UL 2034, and installed in accordance with the code and the manufacturer's instructions.

The emergency rulemaking will be followed by the regular rulemaking process in 2011. Please visit our website at [www.ga.wa.gov/sbcc](http://www.ga.wa.gov/sbcc) for more information on this topic and to view the rules as filed.

If more information is needed, please contact Code Specialist Joanne McCaughan, at (360) 725-2970.